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28-2-7107

28 May 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director  
Psychological Strategy Board

1. [ ] has drawn our attention to a United Press dispatch dated Washington, May 26, which was carried in the Paris Herald Tribune on 27 May, headlined "United States Is Reported to Stockpile Germ Weapons." The article quoted experts who suggested the possibilities of aerosol bombs fired from ground artillery or war ships and the laying of lethal mists by submarines over large coastal areas. The article quoted officials as saying that these weapons would never be used by the United States except in retaliation.

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2. The fact that such an article should be carried by the Paris Herald Tribune on the day that General Ridgway arrived, according to the report we have received, served Communist efforts already under way to make him appear the symbol of bacteriological warfare.

3. A recent cable from our Ambassador in Moscow made reference to the same type of harmful publicity emanating from official sources in the United States to the general effect that we are developing a variety of weapons whose lethal powers are second to none, etc., etc.

4. Mr. Wisner has asked me to bring the above to your attention with the request that the PSB consider and recommend courses of action which in the future may reduce instances of such press releases.

[ ]

Chief of Operations  
Deputy Director (Plans)

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